

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 AID-10 IGA-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 IO-03 MC-01

ACDA-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 /075 W

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O P 300700Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6475

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

SECDEF EASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCPAC HAWAII

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10093

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN HELICOPTERS TO PAKISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 6145

1. I STRONGLY AGREE THAT THE IRANIANS SHOULD TELL THE INDIANS WITHOUT DELAY THAT THEY HAVE SENT ARMED HELICOPTERS TO HELP PAKISTAN IN BALUCHISTAN. THE IRANIANS MAY BE TEMPTED TO DELAY BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT VISIT OF PRINCESS ASHRAF TO INDIA. THIS WOULD BE A MISTAKE. THE BITTER SHOULD GO WITH THE SWEET.

2. I SHOULD ALSO LIKE THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO WHAT TO SAY WHEN --AS I ASSUME THEY WILL-- THE INDIANS ASK IF THIS IS NOT A VIOLATION  
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OF OUR ARMS POLICY ON THE TRANSFER OF LETHAL EQUIPMENT. I SUPPOSE

THE ANSWER IS THAT THE IRANIANS ARE RETAINING CONTROL. TEHRAN HAS A BETTER ARGUMENT: IT IS ALL DONE TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN UNITY WHICH IS IN THE INTEREST OF INDIA AS WELL AS IRAN. I BELIEVE THE IRANIANS SHOULD BE AS OPEN AS POSSIBLE WITH THE INDIANS. COULD THEY, FOR EXAMPLE, GIVE A) AN ESTIMATE OF HOW LONG THE HELICOPTERS WILL REMAIN IN PAKISTAN, AND B) MORE INFORMATION AS TO WHERE THEY WILL BE USED AND HOW?

3. OFFICIAL INDIAN REACTIONS MAY BE TEMPERED. IN FACT, SWARAN SINGH HAS SAID IN PARLIAMENT INDIA WOULD HAVE NO QUARREL WITH IRANIAN HELP FOR PAKISTAN IN DEALING WITH BALUCHIS: "WHATEVER MAY BE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND PAKISTAN TO HELP PAKISTAN QUELL SUCH MOVEMENT, IT IS A MATTER IN WHICH WE DON'T COME DIRECTLY ... THEY MAY ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT AFFECT US." BUT NOW THERE IS THE ADDED ELEMENT OF US LETHAL EQUIPMENT. IN ANY EVENT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A VERY REAL DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JANA SANGH NATIONALISTS AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY WILL ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT, THE FORMER OVER SOFTNESS TOWARD PAKISTAN AND THE LATTER OVER US ARMS TRANSFER SERVING "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM". THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO REACT PUBLICLY AND THIS MAY RAISE TEMPERATURES FOR AWHILE.

4. COULD I HAVE WASHINGTON'S ADVICE?  
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